
Remarks / Arguments & Status

The application presently contains the following claims:

<u>Independent Claim #</u>	<u>Dependent Claim #s</u>
1	2-6
7	8, 10-12
13	14-18
19	20-21, 23, 25-26

The examiner has indicated that claims 1-6 contain allowable subject matter. The examiner has further represented that claims 16 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant's attorney thanks the examiner for her thoughtful office action and would respectfully request that the examiner reevaluate some of her conclusions regarding rejected claims 7-8, 10-15, 27-21, and 25-26 in light of the arguments provided in the previously submitted Request for Continued Examination and Preliminary Amendment dated 16 October 2007.

In compliance with the one (1) month or thirty (30) days, whichever is the longer deadline measured from the mail date of the notice, only the converted section of the non-compliant amendment is provided in accordance with 37 CFR §1.121

Request for Reconsideration

Applicant believes that all independent claims clearly define over the prior art and that the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Additionally, the remaining dependent claims, (including withdrawn dependent claims pursuant to the restriction and species election requirement) by the limitations contained in the base independent claims, are felt to be patentable over the prior art by virtue of their dependency from independent claims which distinguish over the prior art of record. All pending claims are thought to be allowable and reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that no new additional searching will be required by the examiner.

Fee Determination Record


A fee determination sheet is attached for this amendment response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required to effect the filing of this document to Account No. 50-0983.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all references identified by the examiner have been distinguished in a patentably novel and non-obvious way. If the examiner believes that a telephonic conversation would facilitate a resolution of any and/or all of the outstanding issues pending in this application, then such a call is cordially invited at the convenience of the examiner.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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